

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 CU-02 VO-03 SCA-01 FBIE-00 INSE-00 /085 W
-----211017Z 125622 /20

R 210830Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9343
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USUN NEW YORK 389

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0211

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SREF, SF, BC
SUBJECT: SSRC LEADERS VISIT EMBASSY

REF: A. JOHANNESBURG 0093 (NOTAL); B. JOHANNESBURG 0070 (NOTAL);
C. BOWDLER/THULA MEMCON, DECEMBER 24, 1976

1. SUMMARY: SOWETO STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SSRC) VISITED
EMBASSY JANUARY 18 TO DISCUSS VISA ISSUANCE. GROUP CON-
SISTED OF TSIETSI MASHININI, KHOTO SEALTHLHOLO, SIMON
MOKOENA AND ONE OTHER MEMBER, POSSIBLY MICKEY TSAGAE.
MASHININI, WHO DID MOST OF THE TALKING, SAID HE AND AT
LEAST ONE OTHER FOLLOWER (POSSIBLY SEALTHLHOLO) HAVE BEEN
INVITED BY BOSTON-BASED AMERICAN ANTI-APARTHEID STUDENT GROUP
ON SPEAKING TOUR LATE FEBRUARY-EARLY MARCH. AIR FARES AND
OTHER EXPENSES TO BE PAID BY U.S. GROUP. MASHININI
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SAID HE HAS REFUGEE TRAVEL DOCUMENT WHICH HE WILL
BRING IN FOR VISA IN FEBRUARY. ACTION REQUESTED: ANY GUIDNCE FOR USE
IN HANDLING VISA REQUEST AND INDICATION OF PROSPECTS FOR EDUCATIONAL
ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. END SUMMARY.

2. MASHININI SAID THAT NAME OF HIS ORGANIZATION NOW
STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC) AND THAT WORD

"SOWETO" HAD BEEN DROPPED BECAUSE SRC NOW REPRESENTS STUDENTS FROM ALL OVER SOUTH AFRICA. HE ESTIMATES THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 450 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS NOW IN BOTSWANA, ABOUT 200 OF WHOM ARE SRC FOLLOWERS. MASHININI EXPLAINED HE USING FIGURE 200 BECAUSE APPROXIMATELY 150 ATTENDED RECENT SRC MEETING IN GABORONE; HE ESTIMATES ANOTHER 50 UNABLE TO ATTEND. HE SAID OTHER 250 SOUTH AFRICANS SPREAD AMONG ANC, PAC, SASO, SASM AND BPC. MASHININI GUESSED ABOUT 100 SRC MEMBERS IN SWAZILAND BUT DID NOT SAY HOW HE ARRIVED AT THIS FIGURE.

3. ACCORDING TO SRC LEADERS, THEIR FOLLOWERS WANT ACADEMIC NOT MILITARY TRAINING. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT MOST STUDENTS GRAVITATING TOWARD SRC AND AWAY FROM ANC AND OTHER MOVEMENTS. MASHININI ESTIMATES THAT 600 YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE LEFT BOTSWANA FOR MILITARY TRAINING, PRIMARILY UNDER AUSPICES OF ANC (MASHININI SAYS ANC DOMINANT IN BOTSWANA WHILE PAC PREEMINENT IN SWAZILAND.

4. MOKOENA PRODUCED PARTIAL LIST OF SRC FOLLOWERS HERE WHICH GIVES NAME, AGE, ACADEMIC CLASS, SCHOOL AND SUBJECTS STUDIED. MASHININI ADDED THAT COMPLETE LIST WILL BE BROUGHT TO EMBASSY SO THAT USG CAN HAVE PARTICULARS ON STUDENTS WHO NEED "ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE". EMBOFF DID NOT PROMISE SUCH ASSISTANCE BUT WAS OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN LIST. (COPY POUCHED TO EMBASSY CAPE TOWN. FULL LIST WILL BE SENT WHEN AND IF OBTAINED.)
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5. MASHININI TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE AND COLLEAGUES HAD BEEN TARGETS OF SEVERAL SAG KIDNAP ATTEMPTS. FIRST ALLEGEDLY OCCURED AROUND TIME OF BOTSWANA TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS (SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 2) BEFORE MASHININI WENT TO U.S.. LATEST ATTEMPTS WERE THIS PAST WEEKEND (JANUARY 15-16) AND INVOLVED AT LEAST SOME WHITES DRIVING CAR WITH SA PLATES. MASHININI SAID ONE OF THE INTENDED VICTIMS RECOGNIZED A PURSUER AS SA POLICE OFFICIAL.

6. COMMENT: MASHININI, ALTHOUGH FULL OF BRAVADO ABOUT HOW SAG WOULD HAVE "BLOODY HARD TIME" SNATCHING HIM, WAS NOT PARTICULARLY IMPRESSIVE. NONETHELESS, OTHERS CLEARLY DEFERRED TO HIM AS LEADER. MOKOENA WAS SOFT-SPOKEN AND SEEMED LEVEL-HEADED. OTHER TWO NEVER SPOKE. EMBASSY HOPES TO NURTURE RELATIONSHIP AND THEREFORE DOES NOT PLAN TO PRESS TOO HARD SHOULD SRC LEADERS RETURN. HOWEVER, WE WILL CERTAINLY REPORT DETAILS OF MASHININI'S PLANNED SPEAKING TOUR (DETAILS

WHICH CAN BE OBTAINED DURING VISA ISSUANCE) PLUS ANY
OTHER INFORMATION ON SRC LEADERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP, PLANS
AND ATTITUDES. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD WELCOME ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE
WHICH DEPARTMENT, CAPE TOWN OF JOHANNESBURG WISH TO
PROVIDE IN HANDLING ABOVE VISA REQUEST. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE
INDICATIONS AS TO WHETHER (AND, IF SO, TO WHAT EXTENT) WE
CAN HOLD OUR PROSPECT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM U.S.
(GABORONE 188) TO THOSE DESCRIBED PARAS 3 AND 4 ABOVE.
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Message Attributes

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